

# **Indiana Rural Development Council**

*Partners Working Together  
for Rural Indiana*



## **Year 2005 -- Plan of Work**

*Submitted for Approval:*

**Indiana Rural Development Council  
One North Capitol, Suite 600  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
Phone: 317/232-8776  
Fax: 317/233-1571**

## **The Indiana Rural Development Council: Who we are and what we do**

In Indiana, 35 % of the 5.8 million residents live in rural areas. Rural residents expect similar services from local government as residents in urban areas, but rural communities generally lack the tax base, staff and full-time leadership to support them. Therefore, many small towns lack the resources to provide the quality of life that their residents desire.

Established in 1993, the Indiana Rural Development Council's mission states that it is a partnership of local, state, federal, profit and not-for-profit stakeholders that support Indiana communities. The IRDC's purpose is to coordinate efforts of citizens and governments to meet the economic and social needs of rural Indiana.

The Council has responded to a variety of issues brought before it, and it has been proactive in identifying issues and activities that benefit rural Indiana.

The objectives of the IRDC are to:

- Provide a collaborative forum for addressing rural issues;
- Seek community input to identify barriers and find solution;
- Establish partnerships to support innovative approaches and resolution of rural development issues at all levels;
- Assist member agencies and organizations in structuring and implementing a problem solving process at the agency and/or organizational level; and
- Serve as a voice on common issues of rural concern.

## **MISSION**

**The Indiana Rural Development Council is a partnership of local, state, federal, profit and nonprofit stakeholders that support Indiana communities. Its purpose is to coordinate efforts of citizens and governments to meet the economic and social needs of rural Indiana.**

The 2005-06 Work Plan is organized around the key program areas identified in the Rural Economic Development Strategy (REDS) Report, published in October 2002.

- Community Visitation Program (added as an interdisciplinary goal)
- 2006 Farm Bill (special project)
- Agricultural Development
- Rural Health
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Job Creation/Workforce Development
- Land Use
- Leadership Development
- Local Planning
- Social and Cultural Issues
- Technology and Education
- Governance (added as an organizational responsibility)

## Community Visitation Program

**Goal:**

*To visit selected communities to listen to local needs, identify critical issues and brainstorm on potential solutions. Bring together leaders from government, business and community to pursue ideas to positively impact local rural areas.*

CVP-1. The Community Visitation Program is an interdisciplinary approach to technical assistance and crosses all program areas.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Establish a task force to re-start the Community Visitation Program (CVP)		
Task force will convene early in the year to determine selection process and timeline for choosing 5-8 communities to visit;		
Communities selected for visits in 2005-06 will be advised and those not selected will also be notified and invited to submit next year;		
Team leaders, to act as co-chair for each visit, will be identified prior to initiation of planning with community		
Community will select leader to act as visit co-chair		
Co-chairs and director will coordinate details with the communities prior to each visit and will assemble a visit team for each. Assistance to the community will include sample schedules from previous visits, sample press releases for public awareness of the visit, and draft letters to citizens to encourage participation;		
Co-chairs and director will hold a preparatory meeting with the visit team prior to the visit;		
Community Visit will be conducted;		
Co-chairs and director will meet with visit team shortly after the visit to develop the outline for the report.		
Co-chairs and director will draft a report to the community and distribute to visit team for additional input.		
Co-chairs and director will deliver the final report to the community within 8 weeks of the visit.		
Develop program materials, including draft agendas, focus questions and participant lists		
Development marketing brochures to increase program visibility		
Conduct annual follow-up to visited communities		

## 2006 Farm Bill (Special Project)

**Goal:**

*The next Farm Bill will be developed throughout late 2005 and into 2006. The bill contains the primary rural development provisions in federal law. Indiana wants to capitalize on its success in rural development to directly influence program and funding direction in the next bill.*

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Evaluate the provisions of the 2002 Farm Bill to determine their applicability for 2006		
Establish forums for rural constituent groups to provide input into Indiana's rural platform		
Coordinate efforts with the Indiana State Department of Agriculture on a comprehensive Farm Bill platform		
Utilize rural network to persuade Congress to include Indiana's platform in the federal Farm Bill		

**Partners:**

Indiana State Department of Agriculture  
IRDC Members

## Agricultural Development

**Goal:**

***To assist farmers and agribusinesses in pursuing profitability in emerging markets through new and innovative approaches that respond to changes in the traditional food and fiber system.***

AD-1. Work with the Indiana Cooperative Development Center (ICDC) to provide technical assistance and other services that will retain businesses, and generate new cooperative businesses to improve economic conditions of rural areas.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Provide support for ICDC's application for a USDA Rural Cooperative Development Grant		
Provide financial support for the National Value-Added Agriculture Conference in Indianapolis, June 2005		
Assist the ICDC in Cooperative Board Training programs		
Assist the ICDC in development of a Cooperative Entrepreneur Network		

AD-2. Establish a Rural Entrepreneurship Network that focuses resources on growing entrepreneurs that create local jobs and wealth as well as building a support services net to improve success.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Partner with Purdue University to host a regional listening session of Kellogg grant applicants to discuss program strategies and possibilities		
Determine how to attract venture capitalists and angel investors to rural projects		
Identify other dollars available to rural entrepreneurs, both public and private		
Determine better methods to communicate availability and to provide technical assistance to rural entrepreneurs.		
Determine what structural issues, including infrastructure impediments, which may exist that discourage entrepreneurship in rural areas		
Provide financial resources to establish a Rural Entrepreneurship organization to provide ongoing programming		
Provide leadership and financial assistance to two entrepreneur workshops coordinated by Purdue University		

AD-3. With the elimination of federal subsidies for tobacco production, Indiana wants to help producers and organizations development alternative markets to tobacco.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Complete development of the CD-ROM on alternative agriculture enterprises		
Host two roundtables in tobacco-producing counties to introduce the video, along with ICDC and AICC		

AD-4. Provide funding through the Rural Development Grant program to assist organizations in agricultural business development.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Rejuvenate Farmers' Market – City of Madison		
Regional Agribusiness Development Specialist – Eastern Indiana Development District		
Cottage Industry Development Program – Elkhart County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.		
Farmer-controlled system for locally grown cooperative marketing of livestock – Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D and Jennings County Growers		
Scale Appropriate Value-Added Marketing Resource – Indiana Beef Cattle Association/Indiana Livestock Alliance		
Education of Public Officials through strategic partnerships - Indiana Beef Cattle Association/Indiana Livestock Alliance		
Food Venture – Madison Area Chamber of Commerce		
Indiana Beef Integrated Resource Management (IRM) Program – Purdue University		
Agriculture Innovation and Commercialization – Purdue University		
Value-added Agriculture Revolving Loan Fund - Region III-A Economic Development District & Regional Planning Commission		
Indiana Uplands Grape growers cooperative and wine trail – Starlight Visitors Association, Inc.		

AD-5. Establish a ‘hub’ to maximize IRDC’s role as a facilitator of rural resources and create a mechanism for involvement in the Council’s activities.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Recruit potential members at the Annual Conference, through the newsletter and among grant recipients.		
Determine reasonable and measurable improvements to set goals for Agricultural Development hub.		

Partners:

Indiana State Department of Agriculture  
USDA-Rural Development  
Small Business Development Center  
Ball State University  
Indiana Cooperative Development Center  
Indiana Association of Regional Councils

Purdue University  
Indiana Department of Education  
Small Business Administration  
Community Bankers Association of IN  
Agricultural Innovation and  
Commercialization Center

## Health Care

**Goal:**

*To assist rural communities in providing high quality health care services locally, while offering access to specialty care service providers. Adequate health care is an integral part of a community's infrastructure to support economic development and ensure a high quality of life.*

HC-1. Work with the Indiana Rural Health Association, the Indiana State Office of Rural Health and other partners to identify strategies to develop a blueprint for the future of rural health and safety in Indiana.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Increase the number of health care professionals serving rural residents		
Improve access to quality health care through physical locations and tele-health		
Establish measurable indicators of quality health care as part of the National Rural Health Association Quality Initiative		
Assess technical support services, i.e. training and equipment, for local volunteer EMS providers that serve remote rural communities		

HC-2. Establish a 'hub' to maximize IRDC's role as a facilitator of rural resources and create a mechanism for involvement in the Council's activities.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Recruit potential members at the Annual Conference, through the newsletter and among grant recipients.		
Determine reasonable and measurable improvements to set goals for Rural Health hub.		

HC-3. Assist communities in accessing Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and other funds for Health Care and Safety projects.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
See CDBG grant recipients.		

**Partners:**

Indiana State Department of Health – Rural Health  
Indiana Hospital and Health Association

Indiana Rural Health Association  
Indiana State EMS Agency



# Housing

**Goal:**

*To assist local communities in accessing programs which provide affordable and high quality housing. Homeownership is a quality of life issue, while affordable housing options for those without the financial means to purchase a home are a critical need of rural communities.*

HOU-1. Work with ICDC to explore the potential of a Cooperative Housing in a targeted community.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Identify community(s) needing cooperative housing		
Use partners' resources to develop a viable business plan		
Link community with technical and financial assistance necessary for a successful project.		

HOU-2. Increase awareness of Indiana Housing Assistance Review Team (IHART), thereby increasing the number of communities submitting IHART applications for review.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Make powerpoint presentations to interested organizations		
Press releases to highlight IHART successes		
Receive IHART applications, review and respond to applicants		

HOU-3. Establish a 'hub' to maximize IRDC's role as a facilitator of rural resources and create a mechanism for involvement in the Council's activities.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Recruit potential members at the Annual Conference, through the newsletter and among grant recipients.		
Determine reasonable and measurable improvements to set goals for IHART hub.		

HOU-4. Assist communities in accessing Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and other funds for housing projects.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
See CDBG grant recipients.		

Partners:

Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis  
Indiana Cooperative Development Center  
USDA Rural Development –  
Housing Division

US Department of Housing and Urban  
Development  
Indiana Housing and Community  
Development Authority

## Infrastructure

### **Goal:**

*To assist community and economic development groups in accommodating the needs of new and existing businesses and residences in rural areas. Primary needs include the availability, reliability and affordability of water resources, wastewater handling, stormwater drainage and transportation.*

INF-1. It is also paramount that IRDC work with communities to attract more federal dollars to local projects to compensate for the fact that Indiana is a deficit state with regard to sending more dollars in taxes to the federal government than receiving monies back to the state.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Work within rural communities to create more awareness and education of federal and state funding opportunities.		
Develop a new strategy for tapping into private foundations for community projects.		
Develop a stronger network of insiders to improve awareness of upcoming funding pools so as to lengthen the timelines for planning and applying for grants		

INF-2: Continue to coordinate and facilitate EIWG to improve communication between state and federal agencies and provide beneficial assistance to participating communities.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Continue monthly meetings of funding and technical assistance providers.	On-going	
Continue to coordinate scheduling communities into the process.	On-going	
Update materials to include programmatic modifications.	On-going	
Include this model in presentations on IRDC activities.	On-going	

INF-3. Evaluate EIWG's current form and pursue methods to improve its usefulness for communities to explore environmental infrastructure funding and technical assistance.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
The working group will evaluate the EWIG program from the perspectives of the agencies		
Survey past EIWG participants to evaluate the program from the perspective of the communities that have been through the process.		

Make modifications to program as necessary.		
Build greater awareness of and participation in EIWG to maximize dollars and improve access to technical assistance needed by rural communities.		

INF-4. Capture more resources and, through partnering, maximize available technical assistance to ensure success of projects and improve comprehensive planning for future projects.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Work with CDBG program leaders to develop an Infrastructure Self-Assessment Tool for communities to use in identifying and prioritizing needs		
Use Tool results to help communities identify projects eligible for targeted funding and constantly improve infrastructure planning		
Consider developing an Infrastructure University similar to Purdue's road school to help teach elected leaders about infrastructure planning, funding and successful implementation.		
Work with Purdue University to expand the reach of their TAP program, creating the I-TAP to provide review of proposed infrastructure projects.		
Improve the scoring of projects which are regional (multi-jurisdictional) in nature. This may include multiple communities within a county or multiple counties.		
Review the 2003 Report of the Rural Wastewater Task Force (to the Indiana Land Resources Council) to determine what strategies can be identified to address rural wastewater issues facing communities		

INF-5. Establish a 'hub' to maximize IRDC's role as a facilitator of rural resources and create a mechanism for involvement in the Council's activities.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Recruit potential members at the Annual Conference, through the newsletter and among grant recipients.		
Determine reasonable and measurable improvements to set goals for EIWG hub.		

INF-6. Provide funding through the Rural Development Grant program to assist organizations in agricultural business development.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Aurora Riverfront Redevelopment – City of Aurora		
Acquisition of Land for Intermodal Logistics Park – Henry County Redevelopment Corp.		
Southwestern Indiana Intermodal Freight Terminal – Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce, Inc.		

Partners

IDEM – State Revolving Loan Fund  
Office of Rural Affairs-CDBG  
USDA—Rural Development  
US Economic Development Agency  
Rural Water Alliance  
Indiana Rural Water Association

Rural Community Assistance Program  
Indiana State Department of Agriculture  
Indiana Department of Transportation  
Purdue University—Center for Regional  
Development

## Workforce Development (Job Creation)

**Goal:**

*To provide skilled and educated labor force through training and education to maintain Indiana's existing businesses and attracting new employers to rural communities.*

- WF-1. Work with the Indiana Cooperative Development Center to provide technical assistance and other services that will retain businesses, and generate new cooperative businesses to improve economic conditions in rural areas.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Provide support for ICDC's application for a USDA Rural Cooperative Development Grant		
Provide financial support for the National Value-Added Agriculture Conference in Indianapolis, June 2005		
Assist the ICDC in development of a Cooperative Entrepreneur Network		
Assist the ICDC in Cooperative Board Training programs		
Develop a train the trainer program for resource specialists to provide technical assistance to entrepreneurial groups.		

- WF-2. Establish a Rural Entrepreneurship Network that focuses resources on growing entrepreneurs that can create local jobs and wealth as well as building a support services net to improve success.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Partner with Purdue University to host a regional listening session of Kellogg grant applicants to discuss program strategies and possibilities		
Determine how to attract venture capitalists and angel investors to rural projects		
Identify other dollars available to rural entrepreneurs, both public and private		
Determine better methods to communicate availability and to provide technical assistance to rural entrepreneurs.		
Determine what structural issues, including infrastructure impediments, which may exist that discourage entrepreneurship in rural areas		
Provide financial resources to establish a Rural Entrepreneurship organization to provide ongoing programming		
Provide leadership and financial assistance to two entrepreneur workshops coordinated by Purdue University		

WF-3. Establish a ‘hub’ to maximize IRDC’s role as a facilitator of rural resources and create a mechanism for involvement in the Council’s activities.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Recruit potential members at the Annual Conference, through the newsletter and among grant recipients.		
Determine reasonable and measurable improvements to set goals for HoosierWorks hub.		

WF-4. Provide funding through the Rural Development Grant program to assist organizations in agricultural business development.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Aurora Riverfront Redevelopment – City of Aurora		
Commercial Hanger Madison Municipal Airport – City of Madison		
Newco-Start-Up Loan – EDLP – City of Mitchell		
Miami County Incubator Feasibility Study – City of Peru		
Cottage Industry Development Program – Elkhart County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc.		
Robo Lab – Community Education Coalition		
Grant County Economic Growth Council Revolving Loan Fund		
Greensburg Community Learning Center – Greensburg Community Schools		
Harrison County Revolving Loan Fund – Harrison County Economic Development Corp.		
Huntington County Resource Center for Entrepreneurs – Huntington County United Economic Development Corp.		
Growing Rural Indiana Through Agricultural Education and workforce development – Indiana FFA Organization		
Manufacturing Certification: Reducing the gap – Ivy Tech State College – Wabash Valley Region		
Rural and Urban Sustainability – Jeffersonville Main Street, Inc.		
Kosciusko Development Inc. Low-interest revolving loans for small business – Kosciusko Development, Inc.		
Spencer County Rural Development Learning Network – Lincolnland Economic Development Corp.		
Rural Residential Services – Rural Services of Indiana, Inc.		
Ripley County Learning Network Virtual School – Southeastern Career Center		
West Gate at Crane Development Study – Southern Indiana Development Commission		

Southwest Indiana Regional Learning Partnership – Southwest Indiana Network for Education, Inc.		
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Partnership for Progress – Western Indiana Workforce  
Investment Board

Partners

Community Bankers Association of Indiana  
Indiana Small Business Development Center  
US Small Business Administration  
USDA—Rural Development  
Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Indiana Department of Education  
Indiana Cooperative Development Center  
Purdue University –Center for Regional  
Development



## Land Use

**Goal:**

*To help local leaders and citizens identify boundaries for competitive land uses so that the economic, social, educational, commercial and cultural needs of local communities are adequately met.*

LU-1. Work with the Indiana Land Use Consortium to improve understanding of land use conflicts caused by adjoining competitive uses.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Support the Communities at the Crossroads VIII Conference.		
Participate as a member of the Indiana Land Use Consortium		

LU-2. Establish a 'hub' to maximize IRDC's role as a facilitator of rural resources and create a mechanism for involvement in the Council's activities.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Recruit potential members at the Annual Conference, through the newsletter and among grant recipients.		
Determine reasonable and measurable improvements to set goals for IndianaLand hub.		

LU-3. Educate IRDC members of upcoming discussion and legislative issues relating to land use.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Disseminate information about legislative issues to IRDC members via newsletters, e-mail lists, special announcements and other means.		

LU-4: Create liaison relationships with organizations and agencies that incorporate agricultural programming and influence land use decisions.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Determine which activities performed by various organizations contribute to land use changes, and determine where IRDC can consult on policy decisions.		

Target groups include the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), Indiana Development Finance Authority (IDFA), Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD), USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) and USDA Rural Development (RD).		
Coordinate efforts where appropriate.		

LU-5. Provide funding through the Rural Development Grant program to assist organizations in land use decisions.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Education of Public Officials through strategic partnerships - Indiana Beef Cattle Association/Indiana Livestock Alliance		
Rural and Urban Sustainability – Jeffersonville Main Street, Inc.		

Partners

USDA--Farm Services Agency  
USDA--Rural Development  
Indiana State Dept. of Agriculture

Indiana Development Finance Authority  
Indiana Economic Development Corporation  
Indiana Dept. of Workforce Development

# Leadership

**Goal:**

***To assist in the development of active leaders that will build strong and viable rural communities.***

LEAD-1. Inventory the leadership development programs currently operating throughout the state and share the successes of each.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Partner with the Indiana Leadership Association to determine what programs are available to rural residents.		
Explore the format and focus of these existing programs.		
Compile a resource directory of rural leadership program.		
Insert this directory on the IRDC's website and link program sites to this page.		

LEAD-2. Provide other useful tools to existing leadership programs to help them improve the successes of their programs.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Work with the Indiana Leadership Association to establish a network of existing and emerging local leadership providers, training and host a forum for best-practices sharing		
Inventory resources for assisting communities with program(s).		
Develop program materials for initiating the new task(s).		
Develop marketing brochures for program(s) visibility		
Initiate outreach to interested communities		

LEAD-3. Establish a 'hub' to maximize IRDC's role as a facilitator of rural resources and create a mechanism for involvement in the Council's activities.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Recruit potential members at the Annual Conference, through the newsletter and among grant recipients.		
Determine reasonable and measurable improvements to set goals for Leadership Incubator hub.		

LEAD-4. Provide funding through the Rural Development Grant program to assist organizations in leadership development.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Education of Public Officials through strategic partnerships - Indiana Beef Cattle Association/Indiana Livestock Alliance		
Rural Elected Official Leadership Development Program – Indiana Agricultural Leadership Institute		
Regional Capacity Building Project – Indiana Association of Regional Councils		
Project GOLD – River Valley Resources, Inc.		
SWIDC Leadership Development Program – Southwest Indiana Development Council		

Partners

Office of Rural Affairs

Indiana Leadership Association

Indiana Agricultural Leadership Institute

Indiana Livestock Alliance

Indiana Cooperative Development Center

## Local Planning

### **Goal:**

***To cultivate better relationships between state agencies and those agencies and organizations involved in community planning affecting rural areas. While providing state assistance, each community must be given the opportunity to create its own vision, set its own goals and work collaboratively to achieve success.***

LP-1. Establish a ‘hub’ to maximize IRDC’s role as a facilitator of rural resources and create a mechanism for involvement in the Council’s activities.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Recruit potential members at the Annual Conference, through the newsletter and among grant recipients.		
Determine reasonable and measurable improvements to set goals for the Local Planning hub.		

LP-2. Provide funding through the Rural Development Grant program to assist organizations in local planning efforts.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Benton County 2025: Beyond Today and Tomorrow – Benton Community Foundation		
Aurora Riverfront Redevelopment – City of Aurora		
Regional GIS Orthophotography and Town Base Mapping – Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission		
Indiana Downtown – Indiana Association of Cities and Towns Foundation		
Parke County Comprehensive Plan – Parke County Redevelopment Commission		
Southeastern Indiana Regional Rural Partnership – River Valley Resources, Inc.		
Warren County Economic Development Initiative – Warren County Local Economic Development Organization		
Southern Indiana Rural Development Project, Inc.		

### Partners

Office of Rural Affairs

Rural Community Assistance Program

## Social and Cultural Issues

**Goal:** *To assist rural communities in identifying social and cultural needs that will improve livability and enhance the quality of life throughout Indiana.*

SCI-1. Establish a ‘hub’ to maximize IRDC’s role as a facilitator of rural resources and create a mechanism for involvement in the Council’s activities.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Recruit potential members at the Annual Conference, through the newsletter and among grant recipients.		
Determine reasonable and measurable improvements to set goals for Social/Cultural hub.		

SCI-2. Provide funding through the Rural Development Grant program to assist organizations in social and cultural programming efforts.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Wabash River Valley “Our Town” Project – ATTIC, Inc.		
A Canal Boat for Delphi – Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc.		
Milroy Main Street Enhancement – Milroy Economic Development Committee		
The Latino Community Learning Center Project – Purdue University		
Illuminating Indiana’s Historical African American Settlements through Heritage Tourism – Southern Indiana Minority Enterprise Initiative, Inc.		
Indiana Uplands Grape Growers Cooperative and Wine Trail – Starlight Visitors Association, Inc.		
Establish Tourism Development Program in Union County – Union County Development Corporation		

### Partners

Indiana Humanities Council  
AgriTourism Council  
Indiana Historical Bureau

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana  
Office of Rural Affairs--MainStreet  
Indiana Heritage and Culture Council

## Technology and Education Issues

**Goal:**

*To build community connectivity through broadband systems to improve information access, enhance education, build knowledge and provide ways for communities to compete in emerging economic sectors.*

TE-1. Establish a ‘hub’ to maximize IRDC’s role as a facilitator of rural resources and create mechanism for involvement in the Council’s activities.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Recruit potential members at the Annual Conference, through the newsletter and among grant recipients.		
Determine reasonable and measurable improvements to set goals for the Technology hub.		
Determine reasonable and measurable improvements to set goals for the Education hub.		

TE-2. Provide funding through the Rural Development Grant program to assist organizations in technology expansion efforts.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Charlestown High Speed Wireless Broadband Network Project – City of Charlestown		
Linton Technology Feasibility Study – City of Linton		
Regional Telecommunication Project – East Central Indiana Development		
PulaskiOnline.com – Pulaski County Community Development Commission		
Broadband Over Powerline – South Central Indiana Rural Electric Membership Corp.		

TE-3. Provide funding through the Rural Development Grant program to assist organizations in educational efforts.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Greensburg Community Learning Center – Greensburg Community Schools		

Growing Rural Indiana Through Agricultural Education and Workforce Development – Indiana FFA Organization		
Spencer County Rural Development Learning Network – Lincolnland Economic Development Corp.		
Learning for a Successful Life Initiative – North Adams Community School Corporation		
Advanced Life Science Teacher Development and Assessment Project – Purdue University		
The Latino Community Learning Center Project – Purdue University		
Ripley County Learning Network Virtual School – Southeastern Career Center		
Southwest Indiana Regional Learning Partnership – Southwest Indiana Network for Education, Inc.		

Partners

Office of Rural Affairs– Telecom Group  
Career and Technical Education  
Purdue Extension

Ivy Tech State College  
Private Colleges and Universities



## Governance

**Goal:**

*To provide leadership to the IRDC and its partners to improve the delivery of programs that will positively impact rural communities.*

**GOV-1.** Maintain administrative organization of the IRDC.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Schedule and staff at least six meetings of the IRDC's Governing Board.	On-going	
Schedule and staff at least four meetings of the IRDC's Executive Committee.	On-going	
Maintain financial management during 2000, taking into consideration the state and federal fiscal year schedules.	On-going	
Use board meetings as vehicles to gather input and fresh thinking to critical issues facing rural communities	On-going	
Encourage board members to participate in hubs to provide programmatic insights for rural leaders	On-going	
Provide assistance to task forces and activities in accomplishing the work plan and preparing the annual report.	On-going	
Establish budgetary procedures and fund raising plans for task force activities.	On-going	
Update and distribute Board Orientation documents.	On-going	1
Recruit potential directors for the IRDC Governing Board	On-going	

**GOV-2.** Promote the Council's works and build relationships to maintain and grow current financial support from the General Assembly.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Keep legislators informed about IRDC's rural development projects and programs	On-going	
Inform legislators of IRDC and ORA visits in their districts	On-going	
Establish positions on rural issues and use these platforms to educate policy makers, legislators and local officials		

GOV-3. Establish ‘hubs’ for each program area to maximize IRDC’s role as a facilitator of rural resources and create a mechanism for involvement in the Council’s activities.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Recruit potential members at the Annual Conference, through the newsletter and among grant recipients.		
Determine reasonable and measurable improvements to set goals for each hub.		

GOV-4. Increase awareness of the IRDC, not only to local staff but also to elected officials, in hopes of maximizing participation.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Create interest within non-member arena, via media attention, presentations and other means of participation	On-going	
Distribute resource materials to community leaders, appropriate agency contacts and legislators	On-going	
Attend local, regional and national conferences, thereby building, expanding and strengthening partnerships and relationships	On-going	
Distribute media releases on IRDC activities	On-going	
Develop and distribute quarterly newsletters to IRDC members	On-going	
Follow-up contacts and personal visits with those that have benefited from IRDC services	On-going	
Create and maintain a comprehensive database of organizations, agencies, institutions and companies that provide services to rural communities and pursue linkages with the IRDC	On-going	
Upgrade the IRDC Website to improve its value to partners, including links to all rural partners in database	On-going	
Visit city mayors’ offices when conducting community visits	On-going	

GOV-5. Provide an annual IRDC conference to provide a forum for rural leadership networking, cutting edge programming and sharing successes of Indiana projects.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Identify conference partner(s) and establish a planning committee		
Promote the conference to all potential audiences		
Conduct conference in accordance within funding parameters		
Evaluate conference in preparation for next event		

GOV-6. Continue exploring ways to maximize the role of IRDC, Inc.

Action Items	Project Status	Project Completed
Explore funding options available with new non-profit corporation status.		
Secure funding mechanism for additional staff support.		
Strengthen existing relationships and establish new ones with regional, statewide and national organizations.		

GOV-7. Relationship with National Partners

	Project Status	Project Completed
Maintain relationship with National Rural Development Partnership (NRDP)		
Strengthen relationships with National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI), and Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank—Center for the Study of Rural America.		